Sekine's Love

Volume 5, Ch.25

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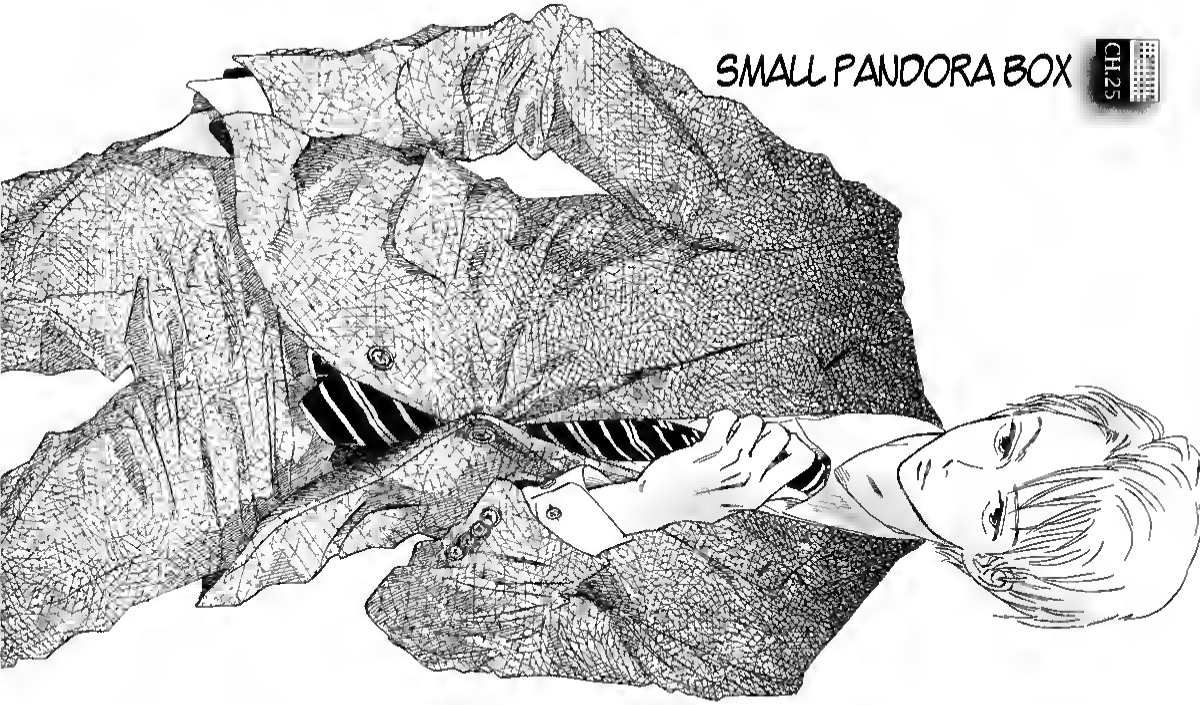
SMALL PANDORA BOX

CH.25



Kozue!
Dinner's ready
Coming!
Thank you, thank you
Who do you think you are?
Hurry and wipe up that table
Yes, sir
You always make the craziest stuff
If you had a girlfriend, she'd run for the hills

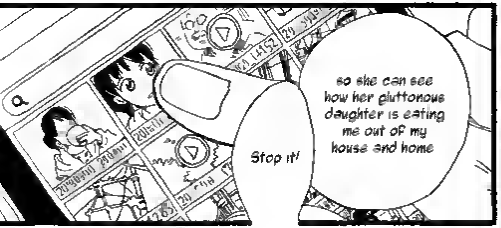
If you ever open up an eatery, send me a DM
Never mind me
How long do you plan on staying here?
Just shut up and eat
Aw, don't be shy
T/N: DM = Direct Mail
Guess not, huh...
It's common sense
How long?
I've only been here one night!
We're both job-hunting right now, so I can't bother him until he calls me
Didn't you say you were meeting up with your boyfriend today?
Yeah, but that doesn't mean you should use my house as a rest stop!
Kozue and I were raised up like siblings.
I'll be honest, I don't mind taking care of you for a few days,
Got it?
but not for a long stay
OK

We came from a small village, our dads were classmates, and even our houses adjoined each other.
I was the second son and a successor to the wine shop brewery, and she was the only daughter of our chief brewer.
It was only until I came up to Tokyo that I noticed how peculiar our circumstances were.
Kozue was born when I was five years old.
That day,
our chief brewer, who just received news from the hospital,
found me playing behind the wine cellar.
Young Master!

I only remember that clear autumn sky
He then lifted me onto his shoulders and shouted, "Yahoo!"
NOW...

I have to send these to your mom regularly,

You took another weird picture, didn't you?
Ew


Stop it!
so she can see how her gluttonous daughter is eating me out of my house and home

Slurp!
CLICK!

Hey Riku-nn, wanna watch something on TV after?
I've been hooked on this drama lately
It's going into Season 2
Yuck
You still use that jersey from middle school for your pajamas?
It's comfortable to wear when it's all worn out
Don't you have the same kind?
Why not wear it?
The news is over so I'm going to bed
Then hand over the remote
I probably threw it away
I can give you my spare?
You should throw it in the washer a few times and get the fabric thoroughly worn out
I swear, you can sleep soundly anywhere
You could sleep anywhere and pay no attention to anyone since way back when
Really?
Yes, really
Before you graduated elementary

And even when you went to middle school
I used to agonize over what I did to deserve this torture.
I did?
You'd take a nap under MY kotatsu

Tatam marks
It's all dried up!
How about an orange?
I was only taking a momentary break, hehehe
You don't seem to be getting anywhere on your science homework
What's it about?
?!
TA-TA-TA-TEE TATA-PA-PARAAA!
Oh!
It's starting
But all of a sudden last week, that Ratso with the deep voice sort of played the cupid role...
Huh? What...? Now I'm curious about what happened last week
WHAT happened all of a sudden?
but the teacher is way older than him and ignored him all this time
She's his first love,
See that girl in the yellow sweater?
She's the piano teacher of that boy with the saucer eyes who showed up just now

How far apart are they in age?
Twelve years. That's why it's so sad, and it makes my heart ache.
Anyway, forget the fatso.
What's more important is the highlight scene right now, where the couple with the age gap is going to elope.
Past and previous events?
So what went on in Season 1?
Anything goes, eh?
I'll give them to you when I graduate.
Cool! Your buttons are gold!
No, I only want it when they are brand-new.

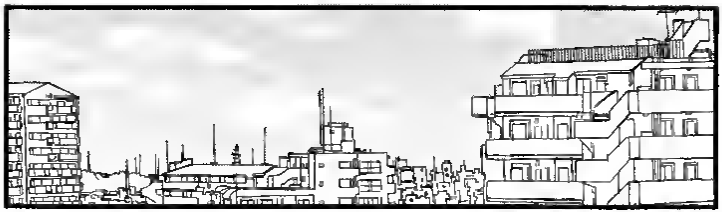
as soon as she got into middle school...
that sixth grader,
When I was in my second year of high school,
Anyway, she's the one getting all excited over other people's age differences without batting an eyelash
Fell asleep the moment the TV was turned off

You're eating your hair
It's not my fault when you put too much trust in me

What would you do if you woke up and find yourself fully stripped, huh?
RUSTLE
CREAK...
Achoo!
RUB RUB
Leave before you catch a cold!

Huh?!
Oh, crap!
tap tap tap
tap tap tap tap...
!!
But that makes it even more...
There's nothing even remotely sexy there...
I'm sick...
Weird stuff is popping up in my head all of a sudden...
But today's a weekday
It'd probably be faster to hang around and get picked up by some woman...
Is there any women I can call and go to right now?
No...
It's Kosue's fault for staying here...

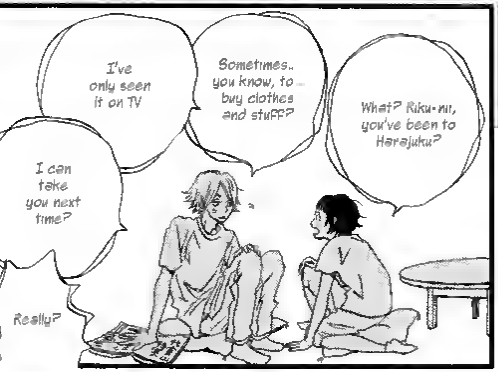
MMRRRRGH
Sir
We're taking your last order for drinks
Give me whiskey

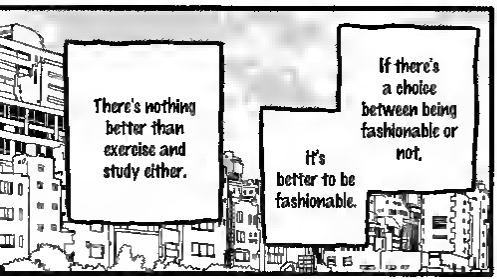


Make sure you leave by today
WORN OUT
You look like you aged twenty years
Never mind me
SNAP

What's wrong, Riku-nii?

BUY
If she plans on sticking around her family,


I've only seen it on TV
Sometimes.. you know, to buy clothes and stuff?
What? Riku-nii, you've been to Harajuku?
I can take you next time?
Really?


There's nothing better than exercise and study either.
It's better to be fashionable.
If there's a choice between being fashionable or not.

she might as well get married already!

I wanna walk around Omotesando
But the year after, you and your hillbilly boyfriend went on a date visiting the big city
As each year went by, the number of chocolates I received from girls skyrocketed,
and I realized at seventeen that not being hated by the opposite sex was pretty nice.
In order to improve my style, I didn't miss my workouts, put in a hell of a lot of practice on a musical instrument, and even formed a band
WHANG
Ordinarily 5 hrs
CLANG
Stupid!
Right when I was starting to understand. What the hell!
ATM
dancyune